



Fall 2022 Semester Report

December 11, 2022

The Student Government of Lafayette College is proud to have seen through a successful fall semester in the service of the student body. This semester, the Student Government overwhelmingly passed an ambitious sustainability resolution, rebuilt on-campus communication, oversaw the implementation of new budget guidelines, and elected to reform itself with a new constitution and bylaws. The below report is a detailed summary of the Student Government's accomplishments for the fall semester. It thanks the student body, the administration, the faculty, the staff, and the Board of Trustees for their collaboration and support.

Student representation

In addition to the 35 student representatives, the Student Government selected students who serve on Faculty and Board of Trustee committees. All students are encouraged to apply for these positions at the beginning of the year. Representatives for the Board of Trustees sit on the following committees: Student Life (1), Grounds and Buildings (1), Development, Alumni & Community Relations (1), and Educational Policy (1). The committees for faculty include Academic Progress (2), Enrollment Planning (2), Student Life (2), and Student Conduct (7).

Initiatives

Constitution and Bylaws: The Student Government, on September 29, 2022, voted overwhelmingly to amend and adopt a version of its 2015 Constitution and Bylaws, with the document subsequently being approved by both the Board of Trustees and, preliminarily, the faculty. This version of the Constitution, to the best of our understanding, has guided the Student Government in some form for decades, and we are relieved to be returning to the steady guidance of this document. The revisions were spearheaded by former Vice President Ross Coleman '22, then undertaken by former Vice President Lia Charles '22, and seen to their conclusion by current Vice President Fatimata Cham '23. The new Constitution and Bylaws seek to make Student Government more active, responsive, and creative than ever.





In the spring of 2022, only the total membership and downsizing of the Executive Board were approved by the Student Government due to time constraints and debate surrounding standing committees. The changes, both proposed and passed, were presented to a joint meeting of the Faculty and Board of Trustees Committees on Student Life. In the succeeding months, the Constitution & Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee under Vice President Cham changed very little of the document from the revisions proposed by former Vice President Charles' iteration of the Committee. All of the changes proposed by both iterations of the Committee, with the exception of an inconsequential half-absence rule, were passed by at least a three-fourths majority vote, in line with both constitutions and Robert's Rules.

Major revisions include:

- Smaller size (27 voting members): more efficient structure and ensures members can form lasting, productive relationships with their peers and the Lafayette community
- Shift in focus from Standing Committees to Ad Hoc Committees: standing committees will serve basic functions, but new ad hoc committees will enable Student Government to be more responsive and effective
- Calendar year term instead of academic year term: ensures smoother transitions of power, a committed general body, and enables first-year representation
- Addition of Parliamentarian and Inclusivity Officer to the Executive Board
- Addition of Associate Members (student Faculty and BOT representatives): fosters better communication between Faculty and BOT committees
- Class Year Representatives: brings more diverse voices and representation
- Updated and clarified budget approval, absence, vacancy, and impeachment processes

Further information about the passage of and debate surrounding the new Constitution and Bylaws can be found in the October 7, 2022 issue of The Lafayette.

Pard Pantry: As a core project of Student Government, the Pard Pantry has been in the process of being reimagined and improved. After collecting and analyzing



student feedback, the Student Government is now establishing the Pard Pantry program as an institutionalized project by working with the administration. The Student Government will open the Pard Pantry starting over winter break for those who will stay on campus and need access to food or hygiene products. We welcome feedback from the student body on how we can improve the Pard Pantry.

Strategic partnerships

Athletics: The Student Government twice partnered with the Athletics division this semester. The first partnership saw the Student Government absorb the costs for free transportation and ticket price reductions for the student body to attend the Lafayette vs. Temple football game at Lincoln Financial Field. This initiative attracted hundreds of students, allowing many who may not otherwise have been able to afford such an excursion the opportunity to attend one of the biggest football games of the year.

The second Student Government-Athletics partnership intended to increase student attendance at various sporting events. This initiative incentivized students to attend five different sports games in order to enter a raffle, with the possibility of winning a VIP experience at the Rivalry Game. This experience included running on the field with the football team, access to PardZone, and sitting on the sidelines during the game.

OUT: The Student Government partnered with OUT, an organization representing the LGBTQ student population, to host the first-ever Queer Formal. This formal, held in the Pfenning Alumni Center, created a safe space for LGBTQ representation, featured student performances, and welcomed LGBTQ students from neighboring schools.

Lafayette Activities Forum: In partnership with the Lafayette Activities Forum (LAF), the Student Government hosted a reinvigorated First Fest. This event, catering to the first-year class during Orientation weekend, attracted hundreds of students who enjoyed a night with zip lines, a jump stunt, laser tag, a mechanical bull, spin art,



bracelet making, and more. The Student Government was thrilled to provide the class of 2026 with such an experience as a welcome to our community.

Transparency and engagement

With a goal of increasing transparency, the Student Government has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to meeting with and reporting to the various parts of the Lafayette community.

- The Student Government met with Greek life presidents to incentivize them to partner with other student organizations. The Student Government and the Greek life organizations also discussed some of the issues facing the organizations and how the Student Government can work to better support their initiatives.
- The Student Government also met with Clerk of the Faculty Joshua Smith and reported to the full faculty at its November meeting.
- The Student Government met with the Finance & Administration Division to understand its financial standing to better serve our students in the allocation process.
- The Leadership Brunch was held with College President Nicole Hurd, Student Government President Matwos Tadesse, and Student Government Vice, providing the opportunity for student leaders to speak with the Student Government and the college administration about the important issues facing their organizations and communities and to provide insight as to what the Student Government can do to support organizations.
- Getting student voices has also been a critical part of Student Government this semester. The Student Government appointed a student representative to the campuswide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and will soon have a representative on the Campus Wide Budget Committee. This committee, among the others for which the Student Government has appointed representatives, is critical to the ongoing strategic planning for the College.

Recognition of new student organizations

The Student Government has recognized six new student organizations this



semester and is in the process of approving more clubs that are currently undergoing a review process. The student organizations approved are the Astronomy Club, the International Affairs Club, oSTEM, the English Club, the Lafayette Data Community, and the Film Society.

Committee reports

The Public Relations & Marketing Committee, led by Trebor Maitin '24, has been working diligently to keep the campus community informed of the Student Government's actions. The Student Government's social media presence is the strongest it has ever been; as of writing, over 38 posts have been added to the @lafstugov Instagram page since the fall 2022 semester began, up from 26 posts for the entirety of the 2021-2022 academic year. Included in these posts are, for the first time ever, introductions of individual members of the Student Government, boosting engagement with the page while remedying concerns voiced by the student body regarding the opaqueness of the Student Government membership. The committee has also worked directly with student organizations to pilot an Instagram Story Takeover program, using the Student Government's platform to promote student organizations that might otherwise fly under the radar. The Student Government now has a TikTok presence for the first time ever, connecting with another side of the student body in a more fun and engaging way. As a part of this social media expansion, the committee has worked to create a video series to premiere in the spring 2023 semester; the first guest is slated to be College President Nicole Hurd.

As a part of the Student Government's dedication to transparency, the Student Government has increased engagement with the campus newspaper, The Lafayette; while the committee understands that not all coverage is positive, its priority is to keep the student body informed, and it has pushed committee directors to provide comment whenever possible.

In order to more thoroughly connect with the student body, the committee has spearheaded the Student Government's collaboration with Lafayette Activities Forum



to hold a reinvigorated First Fest, a night of fun for the class of 2026 held during orientation weekend. Additionally, the committee, in conjunction with President Tadesse, collaborated with the Athletics Department to create a Rivalry Game promotion, aiming to boost attendance at lesser-attended sporting events while creating excitement for Lafayette-Lehigh.

While there is room for growth in the internal communications of the Student Government — the Committee can only promote what it knows of, to begin with — the Public Relations & Marketing Committee contends that the fall semester has been more successful than most. The committee welcomes feedback on how communication can further be improved.

The Sustainability Committee, led by Remy Oktay '24, is culminating 3 years of work across campus by putting together a composting pilot program. This issue has been thoroughly researched over this period. The committee has worked closely with faculty, staff, municipality zoning committees, and student Capstone researchers to fully understand the problem and workable solutions.

The Sustainability Committee continues to research avenues to align the College's endowment with the College's mission statement in order to provide the administration with guidance on how students desire to see the College invest in the endowment funds.

Moving forward, the committee is going to focus on space-related sustainability projects in order to recommend changes to the master planning team.

The Budget Committee, led by Jordan Shaibani '24, oversaw the implementation of revised financial guidelines. Changes include semesterly allocations to student organizations rather than yearly allocations, incentivizing student organizations to plan ahead for events they are hosting. The Budget Committee has worked to allocate over \$1,054,000 to clubs and organizations across campus for the fall semester. The committee has aimed to increase transparency with required meetings and education about how to submit a budget and what the changes to the



guidelines look like. The committee hosted office hours during the budget allocation period and attempted to simplify the process for the 107 clubs that are funded through the Student Government. Outside of allocations, the committee has approved emergency budget requests and reallocations. Moving forward, the committee will work on some of the shortcomings it has acknowledged this semester, such as shortening the timeline for communication by appointing contact persons for the different categories of student organizations.

The Student Organizations Committee, led by Olivia Puzio '25, has been guided by the following goals: increasing engagement with clubs and club members and working to redefine the role of the Student Organizations committee as a support system for clubs, rather than just a committee that approves clubs.

The committee has worked on creating a Club Magazine, showcasing the various clubs and organizations on campus. This magazine will hopefully be distributed at the start of the spring semester with a target readership including prospective students.

The committee has also planned Club Chats. These chats will be lunchtime sessions where club leaders and members can come together to discuss with each other and bring any questions and concerns to Student Organization Committee. These chats will be hosted in the spring.

The Academic Affairs Committee, led by Olivia Lattanzi '23, has continued its textbook donation program and has been looking to ensure that the project continues in the future. To date, the committee has collected more than 400 textbooks and redistributed them to students for the past two semesters. Additionally, the committee is currently working with the Gateway Career Center to create a system for Lafayette alumni to find friends or roommates in the new cities they are moving to after college. This would function as a casual young alumni network.

The Greek Life Committee, led by Jonathan Pursell '23, has streamlined the process



of finding and working with more local philanthropic partners, maintained Alumni Interfraternity and Sorority Board relationships initiated by past iterations of the committee, and generated ideas and a plan to improve the accreditation process, presenting the plan to Greek organizations.

The Student Services Committee, led by Kelsey Wong '25, partnered with Lafayette for Reproductive Autonomy, Justice, and Empowerment (L-RAJE) regarding certain concerns about Bailey Health Center circulating within the student body. Over the course of the semester, the committee held meetings to organize the appropriate action that was necessary to be taken so that a proper and efficient conversation could be had with the Health Center. To begin this process, the committee created a questionnaire surveying students regarding their thoughts and experiences at Bailey Health Center. With a total of one hundred student responses, the committee organized the data and presented its findings to Director of Health Services Dr. Jeffrey Goldstein. It was an incredibly productive and receptive meeting. The committee ultimately identified that the Health Center had to be more transparent and forward about the services it provides as well as the fees that go along with an appointment, among other notes. For future steps, the committee discussed that it would be best to help organize and compile the necessary information onto the Health Center's website.

Another project that the Student Services Committee has begun working on is regarding the lost and found boxes throughout campus. The committee noticed that the boxes were present in some, but not all, campus buildings. As a result, the committee decided to collaborate with Public Safety to figure out the origination of and rationale behind the boxes. Through this collaboration, the committee learned that lost and found boxes were not affiliated with Public Safety. Right now, the committee is in the process of surveying where each lost and found box is located and trying to find a representative in charge of managing them. With this information, the committee hopes to eventually develop a more efficient and cohesive manner of managing these lost and found boxes while working more closely with Public Safety.



The Equity & Inclusion Committee, led by Shreya Raizada '25, strives to create an inclusive and welcoming environment within Lafayette College while also partnering with various other organizations. One project that has been created was the LGBTQIA+ Formal partnered with GRSC, Out, and LIMS. The formal was created to give LGBTQIA+ students a platform to express themselves in a safe environment. Another Project that has been launched with the help of Vice President Fatimata Cham, is the Pard Pantry. The Pard Pantry will entail hygiene products, necessities, and non-perishable food.

The Menstrual Equity Ad Hoc Committee was established by former Vice President Thalia Charles '22 in the spring of 2022 to help implement menstrual product dispensers on campus through Aunt Flow, a menstrual product company. Vice President Fatimata Cham '23 led the committee for the fall semester to continue the goals that Charles set. With the help of Student Organizations Director Olivia Puzio '25 and Executive Secretary Caitlin Mullyooly '24, the committee was able to distribute a survey to gather student feedback on the usage of dispensers campus-wide and worked to establish a connection between Facilities Operations and the Student Government. The ad hoc committee also met with Aunt Flow coordinator Jenni Genson to discuss the next steps and goals for the project and presented the progress the project made to the Student Government. Next semester, the committee hopes to implement the dispensers in student dorms and other areas of campus. The committee is working on measuring the effectiveness of the dispensers on campus.

Other relevant developments

Athletic Affairs Committee: The Executive Board of the Student Government elected at the start of the semester to leave vacant the position of Athletic Affairs Director and not appoint any representatives to the Academic Affairs Committee, hence the committee's absence from this report.

Transition timing: Due to the new Constitution and Bylaws' mandate of a calendar year term, the Student Government will transition to its new structure at the start



of the spring 2023 semester; setbacks in the approval of the Constitution and Bylaws prevented the transition from occurring at the conclusion of the fall semester, as was previously planned. A roughly two-week campaign period is planned for the candidates for Executive Board positions, while three weeks will be allotted to soliciting Representative applications.

Membership changes: The Student Government saw four resignations near the start of the semester: Abigail Warrender '25 of Sustainability, Emory Chiappa '23 of Public Relations & Marketing, Angela Busheska '25 of Equity & Inclusion, and Shiloh Harrill '23 of Academic Affairs. The Student Government welcomed three new representatives midway through the semester: Thania Hernandez '25 of Public Relations & Marketing, Molly Nylund '25 of Public Relations & Marketing, and Mariama Bah '24 of Equity & Inclusion.

Recipients of You Rock Awards: The Student Government recognized the dedication and accomplishments of one representative from each committee, in addition to one committee director and one member of the so-called "Uber Exec." The recipients of the You Rock Awards are as follows: from Uber Exec, Vice President Fatimata Cham '23; from the Executive Board, Director of Public Relations & Marketing Trebor Maitin '24; from Academic Affairs, Alexander Montesinos '23; from Budget, Elena Thome '24; from Equity & Inclusion, Emma Chen '24; from Greek Life, Nicholas Tufano '23; from Public Relations & Marketing, Thania Hernandez '25; from Student Organizations, Leah Bartlett '23; from Student Services, Jordan Lam '23; and from Sustainability, Kaitlyn Hilley '23.

President Matwos Tadesse '24

Vice President Fatimata Cham '23

Treasurer Jordan Shaibani '24

Executive Secretary Caitlin Mullooly '24

Director of Academic Affairs Olivia Lattanzi '23

Director of Equity & Inclusion Shreya Raizada '25

Director of Greek Life Jonathan Pursell '23

Director of Public Relations & Marketing Trebor Maitin '24

Director of Student Organizations Olivia Puzio '25

Director of Student Services Kelsey Wong '25

Director of Sustainability Remy Oktay '24

Academic Affairs: Alexander Montesinos '23 and Christian Festa '24; **Budget:** Elena Thome '24 and Areeb Atheeqe '25; **Equity & Inclusion:** Emma Chen '24, Natalie Beckford '24, and Mariama Bah '24; **Greek Life:** John McParland '23, Nicholas Tufano '23, and Ethan Riehl '23; **Public Relations & Marketing:** Anna Fenkel '25, Molly Nylund '25, and Thania Hernandez '25; **Student Organizations:** Leah Bartlett '23, Jada Peters '24, Nazary Gonzalez '24, and Eva Drotch '25; **Student Services:** Jordan Lam '23, Carolyn Eppolito '23, Onab Falak '24, and Jermaine Grant '25; **Sustainability:** Kaitlyn Hilley '23, Jamie Bryant '25, and Paige Lavelanet '25